



Rothiemay Primary School

'Nurturing aspiration for learning, relationships and life.'

Responsibility – Inclusion - Values – Empathy - Respect

November 2025



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Dear Parents/Carers

We hope you had a restful and enjoyable October Break! We are delighted to welcome all our pupils back to school for what promises to be a busy, fun, and highly rewarding term. As we settle back into our routines, we want to start by sharing a few important reminders and key dates for the weeks ahead.

With the colder weather officially moving in, we wanted to send a quick, friendly reminder about appropriate clothing for school. We absolutely love getting the children outside whenever we can—it's excellent for their well-being and a key part of our school day.

We will continue to have a member of staff on the playground each morning to welcome children arriving on the buses. As the weather gets seriously cold or wet, we may opt for indoor greetings on occasion. However, we always prefer to encourage outdoor play, so please make sure your child is prepared with warm coats, hats, and gloves!



#Responsible Citizens
*A little preparation
goes a long way!*

PE Days

Please help us ensure every child is ready for their weekly physical activity!

We kindly ask that you make sure your child brings their full PE kit and has appropriate indoor shoes (trainers or pumps work best). While slip-on indoor shoes are convenient for the classroom, they are not practical for PE activities, where secure footing is essential for safety.

- **Robins Class (P1-5):**
Mondays and Thursdays
- **Eagles Class (P5-7):**
Tuesdays and Thursdays



Parent Partnerships

A big thank you to all the parents and carers who joined us for our recent Open Event! It was a real highlight to watch the children proudly sharing their learning and hard work with you.

Crucially, this event also served as a great opportunity for you to discuss your child's settling-in report directly with the class teacher. This dialogue is perfect for sharing insights into their learning, celebrating successes so far this year, and talking through any initial concerns you might have. We truly value this time spent strengthening our partnership.

We are also very grateful to everyone who took the time to complete the school questionnaire. Your feedback is so helpful! It gives us a clearer picture of what we are doing well and how we can continue to improve.



Remember, our Class Newsletters and Learning Logs are the best way to keep up with and discuss your child's learning at home each week.

These logs offer an easy, direct way to communicate with your child's class teacher. Please feel free to jot down any thoughts, observations, or questions in the logs. If you have any other concerns, please never hesitate to contact us—we are always happy to hear from you and help!

House and vice captains

We're pleased to welcome our new House and Vice Captains, who were successfully voted into their roles during Term 1.

These students are incredibly important to our Pupil Voice initiatives and will be taking on some great responsibility this year. We are excited to see the positive impact they will have on our school.

#Effective Contributors

Outdoor Learning

Last term was filled with adventure, thanks to some brilliant outdoor learning sessions! We enjoyed fantastic experiences with Angie, as well as superb sessions led by the rangers from the Dornell Windfarm Team.

The Dornell Windfarm rangers ran fascinating sessions both here at school and out near the Acorn Centre at the Cabrach. They shared their expertise on two important local species: sphagnum moss and our magnificent golden eagles.



The children learned all about the crucial work being done to protect these animals and their local habitats. It was a wonderful day where we tracked water, checked out the impressive size of a Golden Eagle's wingspan, and enjoyed fun, hands-on science lessons—like learning about bird beak adaptations and food chains!



Angie focused on developing great teamwork and leadership skills while exploring our outdoor environment. The children tackled a huge variety of activities, including:

- Outdoor Maths (measuring trees)
- Cooking (savoury and sweet dough!)
- Creative Art projects
- Engaging Team Building and leadership games
- And lots of fun with local nature and animals.



#Confident Individuals
*Growing in confidence
through hands-on
adventure!*

Learning at Home

To help reinforce your child's learning, we encourage you to use the information in our class newsletters and weekly learning logs as a starting point for conversations at home.

Talking to your child about what they are learning is incredibly powerful. Here are some simple questions to help get the dialogue started:

- *"What was the most interesting thing you learned this week?"*
- *"Can you teach me something new from your Learning Log?"*
- *"How did you use [Maths/Literacy] this week?"*
- *"What are you most proud of achieving this week?"*

Your child can use their school logins to practice key skills at home. This is a great way to reinforce classroom lessons:

- They can practice their numeracy and maths skills on **Sumdog**.
- They can work on their weekly spelling lists using **Spelling Shed**.



If your child is currently learning phonics, they will be bringing home **phonics books** to practice the sounds they are working on, and they will transition to using Spelling Shed for their spellings at a later stage.

Remember, **reading for fun** has an amazing, positive impact on all areas of learning! You can make a big difference by encouraging and sharing different types of reading at home—it doesn't just have to be a novel! Try exploring:

- Bedtime stories or audiobooks
- Reading a recipe together
- Comic books or magazines
- Fun visual books like "Where's Wally" or optical illusion books



#SuccessfulLearners
*Encouraging practice at
home helps students
consolidate their
knowledge!*

Parent Council

The Parent Council plays a vital role in supporting our school community, and we are currently facing an urgent need for volunteers.

Following our last AGM, we still have some vacant positions on the Parent Council that need to be filled as soon as possible for the smooth running of our activities.

Without a fully staffed Parent Council, we will be unable to organise, run, or fund various events and enhancements that add to all children's learning experiences such as:

- Organising leavers' hoodies.
- Purchasing specialist resources and equipment that directly enhance their learning, play, and well-being.
- Supporting additional experiences and enrichment projects such as school trips and educational visits.

Join Our Next Meeting!

We warmly invite all parents and carers to attend our next meeting:

**Wednesday, 12th November,
6:30 PM to 7:30 PM.**



You can join in person at the school or via the online link below.

<https://meet.google.com/uyv-faga-ijo>

For more information about the role of the Parent Council or to express interest in a position, please feel free to contact them directly:

rothiemayparentcouncil@gmail.com

We truly look forward to seeing you there!

Festive Fun and Christmas Cheer!

We apologise for mentioning Christmas so early, but we need to ensure you are fully informed and prepared so you can save these important dates—the festive season will soon be upon us!

We are excited to share details about how we will be getting into the holiday spirit with the children!

It's wonderful to see the children in their festive clothes! We'd like to invite students to wear their **Christmas jumpers** on the following days:

- For the **Christmas Lunch** (Thursday, December 11th)
- Every Friday in December (for those who wish to participate)



Please note: If your child loves their Christmas jumper, and they choose to wear it throughout the whole festive season, that is absolutely fine too! There is no pressure on anyone to take part or buy a new jumper—we simply love seeing a bit of festive cheer around the school!



This year, we are proud to be collaborating with our other local small schools to ensure a rich and memorable festive experience for all our pupils!

We will be joining the children from other local small schools to head to St Thomas' Primary School to watch a **Christmas Panto** on Thursday, December 4th. This joint outing is a lovely opportunity for our students to celebrate with their peers across the community.

The whole school is also working hard to prepare for our **Christmas Family Event**! This year, the focus is on a collection of festive poems, joyful carols, and singalongs. It's a fantastic chance for the children to develop their speaking and listening skills, showcase their musical bravery, and share a wonderful whole-school effort. We look forward to seeing you all at Rothiemay Church on Wednesday, December 17th, from 1:30 PM to 2:30 PM.

#EffectiveContributors



Our students are working together brilliantly to create a wonderful, festive experience for the community!

Thank you all so much for your continued support and enthusiasm as we head into this busy and exciting time of year.

Playgroup's 50th Anniversary

What a fantastic event! We were thrilled by the support shown for the Playgroup's 50th Anniversary celebrations.



It was wonderful to see so many people come together, demonstrating great community spirit. Past and present families attended, sharing memories and enjoying the festivities, which included bouncy castle fun, patting animals, and plenty of refreshments. Thank you to everyone who made it such a memorable milestone!

Celebrations and Achievements

We love celebrating success within our school community!

We will continue to highlight student achievements through Proud Clouds and River Points in our Friday assemblies. We also warmly welcome emails from parents sharing any achievements your child has outside of school. Please send details to:

admin.rothimayp@moray-edunet.gov.uk



Picture from these assemblies are often shared on our Twitter/X page.

<https://x.com/RothiemayPS>

School Lunches

You can view the current school lunch menu here:

<http://www.moray.gov.uk/downloads/file147882.pdf>



All payments for school lunches are handled online.

If you require any assistance with the online payment system, please contact our administrator, Mrs. Jamieson, who will be happy to help. You can reach her via the school email or by phoning the school directly on Mondays or Thursdays.

Adverse Weather



As we prepare for winter and the potential weather challenges it may bring, we wanted to share important information about how severe weather could impact school transport and the steps we'll take to manage these unpredictable circumstances.

School closures are sometimes necessary at this time of year. We will make every effort to communicate closure decisions as promptly as possible through the following channels:

- **Moray Council Service Disruption Webpage:** Updates will be posted at <https://secure.moray.gov.uk/mcalerts/portal>.
- **Moray Council Social Media:** Posts will be shared on the Council's [Facebook page](#) and [Twitter feed](#).
- **Email Alert Service:** Alerts will be sent to those registered at mygovscot who have selected Rothiemay Primary School for updates. (Please note, this service is separate from our regular school emails.)

If severe weather requires us to send bus pupils home early, we will attempt to call parents to inform them, ensuring someone is available at home to meet the child off the bus. Please be aware that we don't control the arrival times of the buses, so there may be a delay between our call and the bus arriving at your home.

Weather and road conditions can vary greatly from one area to another. We encourage you to use your own judgement to decide whether it is safe for your child to travel to school. If you feel that local conditions pose a risk, please make the best decision for your family's safety.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we navigate the winter season together.

Diary Dates



- Parent Council Meeting – Wednesday 12th November 2025 6.30-7.30 – Everyone Welcome
- Christmas Panto at St Thomas' Primary School
Thursday 4th December
- Christmas dinner day for those wanting a school lunch – Thursday 11th December.
- Christmas Family Event – Wednesday 17th December 1.30-2.30 at Rothiemay Church – Everyone Welcome



2025 – 2026



Winter Term

Monday 27th October– Term starts

Monday 10th November– In-service closure

Tuesday 11th November– In-service closure

Friday 19th December– Term ends



Winter Holidays

Monday 22nd December – Friday 2nd January



Spring Term

Monday 5th January – Term starts

Thursday 12th February– In-service closure

Friday 13th & Monday 16th February – Mid Term Holiday

Friday 27th March – Term ends

Moray Council Terms Dates & Holidays:

moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_55829.html

- ☞ If you are having any difficulties receiving emails or group call messages please contact the school office.

Mrs Clayton